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179 Canal St, Ste 3B/4D
New York, NY 10013

Douglas Paisley

Phantom Limb

October 19 – November 26 2023

Opening Reception October 27 2023, 6–8pm

Press Release

D. D. D. D. is pleased to present *Phantom Limb*, a solo presentation of paintings by Douglas Paisley.

The bodies that populate Paisley's paintings seem distorted by the pressures of psychic or physical distress and pared down to calligraphic gestures. His figures are myriad: sexy homunculi, lost souls who maintain a sense of humor about their predicament, denizens of underworlds and the ferrymen that escort them, bodies poised for flight, bodies in the act of falling, and bodies erupting.

Each painting is fraught with background—evoking some dark but warm space we can only intuit. The figures seem to murmur to each other, form odd affinities and alliances, and gesture toward a world. Collectively, they produce a version of social life in which a connection to others is routed through what we can't fully see or know about each other but is nonetheless sensed. They are the phantom limbs of private and collective experience.

Until recently, Paisley lived, worked, and painted in western Massachusetts. At the beginning of the pandemic, he retired and built a studio on a small off-grid island off the coast of Maine. Later, he moved to a studio in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. Having the luxury to paint full-time daily, he became immersed in the different worlds of Gotts Island and New York City.

The change of location has animated his new work and inspired a change in his approach. The works in the exhibition are the results of first shifting to automatic sketches in charcoal, pencil, and ink. Letting go of predetermination allowed characters and scenes to be informed by the immediacy of muscle memory and the residue of the day.

Through this method, the painter's hand is transformed into a "phantom limb"—informed by bodily experience, the memory of all the brush strokes it has ever taken, and the long history of painting; reactive to things lost and almost forgotten.

Artist Biography

Douglas Paisley (b. 1952, Cleveland, Ohio) is an artist currently based in Brooklyn, New York, and Gotts Island, Maine. He is interested in how historical memory and erasure impact the body and shape our capacity for intimacy and connection.

His work has been included in group exhibitions at NARS Foundation, Brooklyn New York, The Whitney Center for the Arts, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, The Lichtenstein Center, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, The Rudd Art Museum, North Adams, Massachusetts, The Luther W. Brady Gallery at George Washington University, Washington DC, and the Wassaic Project, Wassaic, New York.

From 1992-2020, he was the printmaking assistant at Williams College, while moonlighting as a muralist, set designer, writer, singer, and documentary filmmaker. He is the recipient of a Berkshire Taconic Foundation A.R.T. grant and fellowships at the Ucross Foundation, the Vermont Studio Center, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. He received his BFA from Bennington College in 1991.

For more information, please e-mail dante@dddd.pictures